

Observation of birds during winter in North Darfur, Sudan

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Abstract. From October up to February 1984/85 and 1985/86, respectively, wintering birds were observed in North Darfur, Province Darfur, Sudan, Africa. The results of the observation are listed, commented and the reasons for changing of the avifaunal situation in that area is discussed compared with previous results.

Key words. Aves, winter observations, faunal changes, Sudan.

Introduction

The Sahelian zone in Africa is roughly situated between the latitudes 12 N and 17 N. It is characterized as the transition zone from the Sahara desert in the north to the tropical tree savanna in the south. In this zone as a border area, birds of southern Palaearctic and the Ethiopian faunal regions meet, and moreover, in autumn and winter visitors from the northern part of the Palaearctic occur for wintering and migration.

North Darfur, the western province of Sudan, a typical country of the Sahelian zone, is bordered in the north by Egypt, in the west by Libya and Chad, in the south by the province South Darfur and in the east by Kordofan. The northern part of the province is desert with a transition to the thorn-scrub savanna in the south. As a small belt from north to south, in the western part there are some mountains, reaching altitudes of about 3000 m (Jebel Marra). Some remarkable towns and villages are El Fasher, the capital of the province, Kebkabiya, Kutum, Mellit, Malha, Um Keddada and Wada'a.

The climate of this area is very dry, with an annual average temperature of about 26° C and 70 mm rainfall in the north and 400 mm in the south (average 200 mm) with 9—11 arid month per year (Ibrahim 1984).

Before the draught disaster of 1966—1984 the thorn-scrub savanna reached the border of the Sahara near Malha, but by the progradient desertification this savanna is displaced about 200 km to the south, so that the border of the desert is now near Mellit.

The vegetation of the thorn-scrub savanna is, due to the relative humidity of the ground, mainly *Acacia* spp., *Ziziphus* spp., *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Capparis decidua*, *Boscia senegalensis*, a.o. Today this typical vegetation is only found about 70 km south of El Fasher or at the foothills of Jebel Marra. The thorn-scrub savanna is resource for camel, goat and sheep breeders. Large areas, particularly around El Fasher, Mellit and Um Keddada are agriculturally used by millet growing.

The border lines of the present observation area are in the north the latitude of Malha, in the west the beginning of the foothills of Jebel Marra, Tobago Hills and Berti Hills, in the south and east the borders of the province of North Darfur. In Table 1 the places of observations are listed.

The birds were observed from October until February 1984/85 and 1985/86. If it is possible the status of the birds will be described either as a result of own observations or from the literature. Because of the large area in which observations took place, the following list must be incomplete and needs further completion.

Table 1. Places of observation in North Darfur.

El Fasher	13°37' N/25°22' E
El Fasher Airport	13°37' N/25°20' E
Hafir Golo	13°33' N/25°18' E
Golo Shagara	13°33' N/25°16' E
Hafir Jugojuo	13°42' N/25°29' E
Hafir Geddid-El-Sail	13°51' N/25°27' E
Sag 'e Nam	13°18' N/25°35' E
Hafir Wanda'a	12°37' N/25°46' E
Menawashi	12°42' N/24°58' E
Tawila	13°31' N/24°53' E
Wadi Kebkabiya	13°37' N/24° 6' E
Mellit	14° 5' N/25°26' E
Wadi Saya	14°37' N/26° 1' E
Malha	15°10' N/26°12' E

To describe the change of the avifaunal situation in North Darfur the various habitats of the birds are listed (Table 2) and the birds observed are accordingly classified. In some cases, especially with the Palaearctic migrants the most likely habitat is considered.

Table 2. Habitats of the birds described.

- (1) bush, thorn-scrub, woodland
- (2) savanna, grass plains
- (3) desert, arid places
- (4) lakes, hafirs, wet places
- (5) towns, villages

List of birds observed in North Darfur

Struthionidae

Struthio camelus. — (2)* Resident Wadi Howar, a few pairs (pers. comm. Wildlife Officer); Lynes (1925): "Resident in small numbers."

Podicipedidae

Tachybaptus ruficollis. — (4) Common winter visitor to lakes and hafirs; breeding resident Lake El Fasher; Oct. 20—Nov. 20, 1984, Lake El Fasher 20; decreasing numbers, e.g. Dec. 20, 1986 Lake El Fasher 2; increasing until end of Jan. 1986 Lake El Fasher up to 36; Lynes (1925): "Winter visitor"; Madden (1934): "Lake El Fasher 1 pair until May 1933".

Phalacrocoracidae

Phalacrocorax africanus. — (4) Rare winter visitor; Nov. 19, 1985 Hafir Golo 2; Jan. 26, 1986 Hafir Golo 3.

Phalacrocorax carbo. — (4) Rare winter visitor; Nov. 19, 1985 Hafir Golo 2; Nov. 28, 1985, Hafir Wada'a 14.

* Description of habitats see Table 2.

Pelecanidae

Pelecanus rufescens. — (4) Febr. 2, 1986 Hafir Golo 1; Madden (1934): "Small parties, apparently on passage, appeared in El Fasher in May and June 1933".

Ardeidae

Ardea cinerea. — (4) Common winter visitor and resident to all hafirs and lakes, e.g. Jan. 21, 1986 Hafir Golo 28; Oct. 1984 and 1985 21 pairs nesting in an acacia tree near the souk El Fasher; Lynes (1925): "Not uncommon Palaearctic winter visitor, and more so as migrant".

Ardea melanocephala. — (4) Uncommon winter visitor; Jan. 21, 1986 Hafir Golo 3; Jan. 30, 1986 Lake El Fasher 4.

Ardea purpurea. — (4) Nov. 19, 1985, Hafir Golo 1.

Bubulcus ibis. — (4) Resident? Rare in winter; during Oct. — Febr. 1985/86 at Lake El Fasher, Hafir Golo, Hafir Wada'a 3–5; Lynes (1925): "Common summer visitor to breed in the plains".

Egretta alba. — (4) Resident? Common winter visitor at all hafirs and lakes during Oct. — Febr. 1984/85, 1985/86; e.g. Oct. 19, 1984 Hafir Golo 22; Jan. 22, 1986 Hafir Golo 28; Nov. 10, 1985 Hafir Wada'a 42.

Egretta intermedia. — (4) Nov. 19, 1985 Hafir Golo 2.

Egretta garzetta. — (4) During Oct. to Febr. common at all hafirs and lakes; e.g. Nov. 11, 1985 Hafir Wada'a about 500.

Nycticorax nycticorax. — (4) Jan. 21, 1986 Hafir Golo 1 immat.; Lynes (1925): "Scarce summer visitor in the West Basin."

Ciconiidae

Ciconia abdimii. — (4) Abundant at all hafirs and lakes during Oct. up to Febr.; probably migrants from West Africa; e.g. Nov. 19, 1985 Hafir Golo 150; Nov. 10, 1986 Hafir Wada'a about 2000; Lynes (1925): "Common summer visitor to breed in the plains".

Ciconia nigra. — (4) Nov. 10, 1986 Hafir Wanda'a 11; Nov. 18, 1986 Hafir Golo 2; Lynes (1925): "Palaearctic winter visitor in small numbers in Jebel Marra".

Anastomus lamelligerus. — (4) Winter visitor, Oct. 15, 1985 Hafir Golo 1; Nov. 10 Hafir Wanda'a 8; Nov. 21, 1985 Hafir Jugojujo 1; Lynes (1925): "Occasional visitor in spring".

Leptoptilos crumeniferus. — (4) Oct. to Dec. 1984 Lake El Fasher 2; Nov. 28, 1984 Menawashi 2; Lynes (1925): "Occasional visitor in spring".

Threskiornithidae

Threskiornis aethiopica. — (4) Resident; Oct. to Dec. abundant at all hafirs and lakes; e.g. Nov. 10, 1985 Hafir Wada'a about 500; Oct. 10, 1985 Hafir Golo about 150; Lynes (1925): "Common summer visitor to breed".

Platalea leucorodia. — (4) Jan. 21, 1986, Hafir Golo 13.

Anatidae

Anas acuta. — (4) Winter visitor; Nov. 28, 1984 Hafir Golo 8; Nov. 19, 1985 Hafir Golo 25/15; Jan. 30, 1986 Lake El Fasher 3/3; Lynes (1925): "Scarce and local Palaearctic winter visitor and migrant".

Anas crecca. — (4) Winter visitor; Nov. 19, 1985, Hafir Golo 1/1; Febr. 7, 1986, Lake El Fasher 5/5; Lynes (1925): "Palaearctic migrant in small numbers".

Anas clypeata. — (4) Jan. 20, 1986 to mid of Febr. 1986 Hafir Golo and Lake El Fasher up to 10/12; Lynes (1925): "Scarce and local Palaearctic winter visitor and migrant".

Anas querquedula. — (4) Jan. 21 1986 Hafir Golo 4/4.

Anas platyrhynchos. — (4) Nov. 15, 1984 Lake El Fasher 4.

Dendrocygna bicolor. — (4) Jan. 21, 1986 Lake El Fasher 2.

Plecopterus gambensis. — (4) Nov. 3, 1984, Hafir Geddid-El-Sail 1.

Aythya nyroca. — (4) Nov. 19, 1985 Hafir Golo 1/1; Jan. 20, 1986 to midth of Febr. 1986 Hafir Golo and Lake El Fasher 3/3 and 2/2 resp.

Alopochen aegyptiacus. — (4) Nov. 20, 1984, Hafir Golo 1.

Accipitridae

Torgos tracheliotus. — (2) During Oct. to Febr. common in all parts of the area, especially near towns and villages; Lynes (1925): "Common resident".

Gyps rueppellii. — (2) Abundant in all parts of the area, especially near towns and villages; Lynes (1925): "Fairly common resident".

Gyps africanus. — (2) From Oct. to Febr. a few spec. at the slaughter place El Fasher; Lynes (1925): "Common resident; probably breeding in winter".

Necrosyrtes monachus. — (2) From Oct. to Febr. a few spec. at the slaughter place El Fasher; Lynes (1925): "Common to the centre of the Province".

Neophron percnopterus. — (2) Abundant in all parts of the area during all the time; e.g. slaughter place El Fasher up to 40; Lynes (1925): "Common resident".

Terathopius ecaudatus. — (2) Nov. 28, 1984 Hafir Golo 1; Lynes (1925): "Common resident, north up to about Lat. 14".

Milvus migrans migrans. — (5) Abundant winter visitor in all parts of the area, particularly near towns and villages, rare in the open savanna; e.g. El Fasher Oct. to Dec. 1985 about 300; Jan. to Febr. decreasing numbers.

Milvus migrans parasiticus. — (5) Breeding resident near towns and villages; e.g. El Fasher about 30 pairs; Lynes (1925): "Very common resident".

Melierax metabates. — (2) From Dec. to Jan. 1985 El Fasher-East 2; Lynes (1925): "Common resident".

Melierax gabar. — (1) Dec. 30, 1985 El Fasher-Shoba 2; Febr. 26, 1986 El Fasher-Shoba 2; Lynes (1925): "Common resident where there is sufficient tree-growth".

Elanus caeruleus. — (2) Febr. 3, 1986 Geddidi-El-Sail 1; Lynes (1925): "Not uncommon, probably resident".

Buteo buteo. — (2) Febr. 2, 1986 South of El Fasher 1.

Accipiter badius. — (2) Dec. 14, 1985 Lake El Fasher 1; from Dec. 1985 to Febr. 1986 El Fasher-East 1/1.

Circus macrourus. — (2) Nov. 10, 1985 Sag'e Nam 1; Dec. 4, 1985 Golo-Shagara 1; Jan. 21, 1986 Hafir Golo 1; Febr. 3, 1986 Geddidi-El-Sail 1; Lynes (1925): "Common Palaearctic winter visitor".

Aquila rapax. — (2) Species observed may belong to the *nipalensis* group; winter visitor to all parts of the area where there are trees and water.

Haliaeetus vocifer. — (4) Nov. 10, 1985 Hafir Wada'a 1; Nov. 19, 1985 Hafir Golo 2; Lynes (1925): "Occasional summer visitor or migrant".

Circaetus gallicus. — (2) Lynes (1925): "Common Palaearctic winter visitor".

Circaetus cinereus. — (2) Lynes (1925): "Fairly common resident in the plains".

Hieraetus pennatus. — (2) Lynes (1925): "Fairly common Palaearctic migrant".

Falconidae

Falco tinnunculus. — (2) Nov. 10, 1985 north of Sag'e Nam 2/1; Dec. 14, 1985 Shagara and Airport El Fasher 1 male; Dec. 4, 1985 south of the airport El Fasher 1/1; Nov. 1985 to Febr. 1986 El Fasher-East 1/1; with the exception of some winter visitors (*F. t. tinnunculus*), the pairs at the airport and El Fasher-East seem to be resident pairs because of their typical behaviour; Lynes (1925): "*F. t. tinnunculus* common Palaearctic winter visitor".

Falco biarmicus. — (2) Dec. 12, 1985 Hafir Jugojugo 1; Jan. 28, 1986 El Fasher-east 1; Lynes (1925): "Common resident wherever there were hills".

Falco chiguera. — (2) Lynes (1925): "Fairly common resident; only a bird of the plains and lower altitudes".

Falco naumanni. — (2) Lynes (1925): "Palaeartic migrant".

Phasianidae

Numida meleagris. — (1) Lynes (1925): "Common resident from east to west, north to Meidob".

Coturnix coturnix. — (2) Lynes (1925): "Rather scarce winter visitor".

Ptilopachus petrosus. — (2) Lynes (1925): "Common resident north to Meidob where there is a combination of rocky broken ground and good cover like grass and bushes".

Francolinus clappertoni. — (3) Lynes (1925): "Common resident north to Meidob".

Rallidae

Gallinula angulata. — (4) Midth of Dec. 1985 to Febr. 1986 Lake El Fasher 2; Lynes (1925): "Scarce and local summer breeder in the West Basin".

Gallinula chloropus. — (4) Oct. 1984 to Dec. 1984 Lake El Fasher 4–6; Nov. 9, 1985 Hafir Geddid-El Sail 1; Nov. 1985 to Febr. 1986 Lake El Fasher 2–4.

Fulica atra. — (4) During all the observation time different numbers on Hafir Golo and Lake El Fasher; winter visitor.

Limnocorax flavirostra. — (4) Jan. 21, 1986 Hafir Golo 1; Febr. 8, 1986 Lake El Fasher 1; resident? Lynes (1925): "Fairly common, but local resident in the central part of the Darfur Province".

Gruidae

Grus grus. — (4) Dec. 7, 1985 El Fasher 29 flying to north-east; Jan. 21, 1986 Hafir Golo 5; winter visitor.

Otididae

Eupodotis senegalensis. — (2) Nov. 29, 1984 South of El Fasher 1; Nov. 10, 1985 North of Wada'a 2/9; Lynes (1925): "Common resident in the plains, north to about 14".

Ardeotis arabs. — (2) Lynes (1925): "Common resident in the plains".

Eupodotis ruficrista. — (2) Lynes (1925): "Common resident in the plains".

Charadriidae

Hoplopterus spinosus. — (4) During all the time at Hafirs Golo, Wada'a and Lake El Fasher 3–8; winter visitor.

Vanellus tectus. — (2) Dec. 12, 1985 West of Tawila 2; Lynes (1925): "Common resident in the plains".

Vanellus leucura. — (4) Oct. 1984 to Dec. 1984 Lake El Fasher 2; Jan. 1986 to Febr. 1986 Lake El Fasher 2; winter visitor.

Vanellus gregaria. — (4) Lynes (1925): "Palaeartic winter visitor in small numbers".

Calidris minuta. — (4) Nov. 1984 to Dec. 1984 Lake El Fasher 2–8; Nov. 1985 to Febr. 1986 Lake El Fasher 1–6; Lynes (1925): "Fairly common Palaeartic migrant".

Calidris temminckii. — (4) Lynes (1925): "Palaeartic migrant in small numbers".

Calidris ferruginea. — (4) Lynes (1925): "Palaeartic migrant in small numbers".

Charadrius dubius. — (4) Dec. 4, 1985 Kebkabiya 9; Dec. 23, 1985 Lake El Fasher 1; winter visitor; Lynes (1925): "Palaeartic winter visitor in small numbers".

Charadrius hiaticula. — (4) Nov. 20, 1984 Lake El Fasher 2; Nov. 10, 1985 Hafir Wada'a 4; Jan. 21, 1986 Hafir Golo 21; Dec. 23, 1986 to end of Febr. 1986 Lake El Fasher 2–4; winter visitor.

Tringa glareola. — (4) Nov. 26, 1984 Lake El Fasher 1; Nov. 23, 1985 Lake El Fasher 2; Feb. 7, 1986 Lake El Fasher 13; Lynes (1925): "Rather scarce Palaeartic migrant".

Tringa ochropus. — (4) Oct. 30, 1984 Lake El Fasher 4; Nov. 10, 1985 Hafir Wada'a 2; Nov. 18, 1985 Hafir Geddid-El Sail 2; Jan. to end of Febr. 1986. Lake El Fasher 1–3; Lynes (1925): "Palaeartic winter visitor in very small numbers".

Tringa stagnatilis. — (4) Oct. to Dec. 1984 Lake El Fasher 8–15; Nov. to Dec. 1985 Lake El Fasher, Hafirs Golo, Geddid-El Sail, Wada'a and Wadi Kebkabiya up to 20; Jan. to midth of Febr. 1986 decreasing numbers; Lynes (1925): "Palaeartic migrant; probably scarce".

Tringa nebularia. — (4) Oct. to Dec. 1984 Lake El Fasher 2–4; Nov. 22 to Dec. 10, 1985/86 Lake El Fasher 2; Jan. to midth of Febr. 1986 increasing numbers up to 18 at Lake El Fasher; Lynes (1925): "Palaeartic migrant in small numbers".

Tringa totanus. — (4) Jan. 30, 1986 Lake El Fasher 2; Febr. 7, 1986 Lake El Fasher 8; winter visitor.

Philomachus pugnax. — (4) Oct. 20, 1984 Lake El Fasher 1; Jan. 20 to midth of Febr. 1986 Lake El Fasher 1–7; Lynes (1925): "Fairly common Palaeartic migrant".

Recurvirostra avosetta. — (4) Jan. 21, 1986 Hafir Golo 3.

Actitis hypoleucos. — (4) Oct. to Dec. 1985 Lake El Fasher 2; Jan. 21, 1986 Hafir Golo 1; Lynes (1925): "Fairly common Palaeartic migrant".

Himantopus himantopus. — (4) Abundant during all the time on all wet places and lakes; e.g. Jan. 21, 1986 Hafir Golo 130; from midth of Jan. to end of Febr. 1986 decreasing numbers; Lynes (1925): "Occasional winter visitor".

Numenius arquata. — (4) Dec. 12, 1985 Wadi Kebkabiya 1; Palaeartic migrant.

Burhinidae

Burhinus capensis. — (4) Lynes (1925): "Common resident in the plains, frequenting the bush".

Glareolidae

Cursorius cursor. — (3) During all the time 2–6 south of El Fasher; Lynes (1925): "Common Palaeartic winter visitor".

Laridae

Larus cirrhocephalus. — (4) Nov. 11, 1985 Hafir Golo 2; Nov. 25, 1985 Lake El Fasher 1; Jan. 21, 1986 Hafir Golo 23.

Pteroclididae

Pterocles lichtensteinii. — (3) Dec. 12, 1985 West of Tawila 4; Dec. 22, 1985 North of Wada'a 10; Lynes (1925): "Common resident north of Lat. 14".

Columbidae

Streptopelia senegalensis. — (5) Jan. 21, 1986 Golo-Shagara 6; Lynes (1925): "Common resident in the centre of the Province".

Streptopelia turtur. — (1) Dec. 15, 1985 Golo Shagara 1.

Streptopelia decipiens. — (2) Some spec. in the gardens near Hafir Golo; Lynes (1925): "Common resident everywhere except in the mountains".

Streptopelia roseogrisea. — (5) Abundant resident in towns and villages; Lynes (1925): "Very common resident everywhere".

Columba guinea. — (5) Abundant resident in towns and villages; Lynes (1925): "Common but somewhat local resident".

Oena capensis. — (2) Abundant resident in the area.

Psittacidae

Psittacula krameri. — (1) Nov. 10, 1984 Saya 1; Dec. 2, 1984 South of Menawashi 2; Lynes (1925): "Common resident in the plains wherever the growth of timber is sufficient".

Strigidae

Glaucidium perlatum. — (1) Lynes (1925): "Common resident in plains where the trees and bushes were thickest".

Tyto alba. — (5) Lynes (1925): "Common resident?".

Caprimulgidae

Caprimulgus aegyptius. — (2) Lynes (1925): "Scarce Palaearctic winter visitor".

Caprimulgus eximius. — (2) Lynes (1925): "Rather scarce and local resident".

Apodidae

Apus apus. — End of Oct. to midth of Nov. 1984 and 1985 El Fasher up to 50; begin of Febr. El Fasher up to 30; Lynes (1925): "Common Palaearctic migrant".

Apus affinis. — (5) Nov. 30, 1984 El Fasher 22; Dec. 5 and 11, 1985 El Fasher 20; Jan. 31; 1986 Geddid-El Sail 34; Lynes (1925): "Common resident in the hills".

Apus aequatorialis. — (2) Jan. 21, 1986 Golo 4; Jan. 31, 1986 Geddid-El Sail 6; Madden (1934): "At the lake El Fasher in April 1933 every day".

Apus melba. — Lynes (1925): "Palaearctic migrant".

Coliidae

Colius macourus. — (5) Common in towns and villages, resident; Lynes (1925): "Common resident of the plains north to Meidob".

Alcedinidae

Alcedo cristata. — (4) Nov. 19, 1985 Hafir Golo 1.

Meropidae

Merops orientalis. — (1) Nov. 10, 1985 South of Wada'a 4; Dec. 12, 1985 West of Tawila 2 resp. 4; Lynes (1925): "Common resident?".

Merops superciliosus. — (1) Nov. 5, 1984 El Fasher 2; Febr. 3, 1986 Geddid-El Sail 2.

Coraciidae

Coracias garrulus. — Lynes (1925): "Palaearctic migrant in small numbers".

Upupidae

Upupa epops senegalensis. — (1) Oct. to Nov. 1984, El Fasher 2; Lynes (1925): "Common resident north to about Lat. 14".

Upupa epops epops. — (1) Jan. 21, 1986 Golo 2; Jan. 17, 1986 and Feb. 8, 1986 El Fasher 2; Lynes (1925): "Common Palaearctic winter visitor and migrant".

Bucerotidae

Bucorvus abyssinicus. — (1) Around Kebkabiya some spec. (pers. comm. J. Hicks); Lynes (1925): "Fairly common resident south of about Lat. 13.5".

Tockus erythrorhynchus. — (1) Nov. 2, 1984 Wadi north of Saya 1; Nov. 28, 1984 north of Menawashi up to 8; Dec. 12, 1985 west of Tawila up to 12; Lynes (1925): "Common resident in the plains north to Meidob".

Tockus nasutus. — (1) Lynes (1925): "Fairly common resident north to Meidob".

Capitonidae

Lybius vieilloti. — (1) Lynes (1925): "Common resident, very characteristic of the bush and wooded parts".

Picidae

Dendrocopos obsoletus. — (1) Lynes (1925): "Common resident in the plains where there is bush and light woodlands".

Jynx torquilla. — (1) Lynes (1925): "Rather scarce Palaearctic winter visitor and migrant".

Alaudidae

Mirafra cantillans. — (2) Nov. 24, 1984 north of Saya some spec.; Lynes (1924): "Common resident of the plains" Lynes named his described species "*M. cheniana chadensis*".

Mirafr rufa. — (1) Lynes (1924): "Common resident of the central bush belts".

Galerida cristata. — (2) Common in the area; Lynes (1924): "Very common resident of the East Plain north to Meidob".

Ammomanes dunni. — (2) Lynes (1924): "Resident in the grass prairies of the East Plain".

Ammomanes deserti. — (3) Jan. 11, 1986 hills west of El Fasher 2; Lynes (1924): "Common resident of the eastern sandstone hill-tracts".

Eremopterix leucotis. — (2) Dec. 4, 1985 west of Tawila 4; Lynes (1924): "Common resident in the more open bush".

Eremopterix nigriceps. — (3) Lynes (1924): "Common resident".

Hirundinidae

Hirundo rustica. — Oct. to beginning of Nov. 1984 and 1985 El Fasher up to 50; Lynes (1925): "Common Palaearctic migrant".

Hirundo fuligula. — (5) Nov. 15, 1984 south of El Fasher 1; Jan. 30, 1986 El Fasher Airport 1.

Motacillidae

Motacilla alba. — (5) Abundant in towns and villages and wet places, end of Jan. to mid of Febr. numbers decreased; Lynes (1924): "Regular, but not plentiful Palaearctic winter visitor".

Motacilla flava flava. — (4) Oct. 20, 1984 to Nov. 5, 1984 El Fasher some spec.; Lynes (1924): "Probably a Palaearctic winter visitor".

Motacilla flava feldegg. — (4) End of Jan. 1986 to mid of Febr. 1986 Lake El Fasher some spec.

Anthus campestris. — Lynes (1924): "Common Palaearctic winter visitor".

Laniidae

Lanius excubitor. — (1) Dec. 12, 1985 west of Tawila 1; Feb. 3, 1986 Geddid-El-Sail 1; Febr. 2, 1986 south of El Fasher 3; Lynes (1925): "Common resident north to Meidob".

Lanius nubicus. — (1) Nov. 20, 1984 to Dec. 1984 El Fasher 1; Dec. 12, 1985 Hafir Jugojujo 1; Jan. 27, 1986 to mid of Febr. 1986 El Fasher-Shoba 1.

Lanius collurio. — (1) Lynes (1925): "Common Palaearctic migrant".

Tchagra senegala. — (1) Dec. 13, 1985 Hafir Jugojujo 1; Lynes (1925): "Common resident in bushlands".

Nilaus afer. — (1) Lynes (1925): "Common resident of the plains".

Oriolidae

Oriolus oriolus. — Lynes (1924): "Common Palaearctic migrant".

Sturnidae

Spreo pulcher. — (2) Abundant in the open savanna; Lynes (1924): "Very common resident of the plains".

Lamprotornis chalybaeus. — (1) Dec. 4, 1985 Kebkabiya 3.

Buphagus erythrorhynchus. — (5) Dec. 4, 1985 west of Tawila 1.

Corvidae

Corvus albus. — (2) Abundant in towns and villages, decreasing numbers to the north; e.g. sleeping place in El Fasher more than 300; Lynes (1924): "Common winter visitor".

Corvus ruficollis. — (5) During observation time from Mellit north some spec. near the villages; Lynes (1924): "Scarce resident of the plains".

Corvus rhipidurus. — (5) During all the time from Mellit north some spec. near the villages; Lynes (1924): "Abundant resident of the hills".

Campophagidae

Chapephagus phoenicea. — (1) Nov. 10, 1985 south of Wada'a 2.

Pycnonotidae

Pycnonotus barbatus. — (5) Common in towns and villages; Lynes (1925): "Common resident".

Turdidae

Cercotrichas podobe. — (2) Nov. 19, 1985 Hafir Golo 1; Lynes (1925): "Common resident of the plains north to Meidob".

Cercotrichas galactotes. — (1) Lynes (1925): "Common resident of the plains, where there is enough bush".

Cercomela melanura. — (3) Lynes (1925): "Common resident in the arid hills".

Oenanthe oenanthe. — (2) Common in savanna and desert; Lynes (1925): "Common Palaearctic winter visitor and migrant".

Oenanthe isabellina. — (2) Nov. 20, 1984 Wadi Saya 1; Febr. 4, 1986 south of El Fasher 1; Lynes (1925): "Common Palaearctic winter visitor and migrant".

Oenanthe hispanica. — (2) Oct. to Dec. 1984 El Fasher West 1; Nov. 1985 to Febr. 1986 El Fasher Centre and El Fasher-Shoba 1; Lynes (1925): "Common Palaearctic winter visitor".

Oenanthe deserti. — (3) During all the time fairly common in the savanna and desert.

Oenanthe leucopyga. — (3) During observation time north of Mellit to Malha very few; Lynes (1925): "Common resident at the plain level in Meidob".

Sylviidae

Cisticola aridula. — (2) During all the time in the grass savanna around Wada'a few spec.; Lynes (1925): "Very common resident".

Cisticola ruficeps. — (2) Lynes (1925): "Common resident from quite poor bush to the more open parts of the woodlands".

Prinia clamans. — (2) Nov. 24, 1984 Malha 1; Lynes (1925): "Common resident in the north".

Hippolais pallida. — (1) Abundant in towns and villages where there are trees and bushes; Lynes (1925): "Common Palaearctic winter visitor".

Sylvia communis. — (1) Dec. 13, 1985 Hafir Jugojujo 1; Lynes (1925): "Fairly common Palaearctic winter visitor".

Sylvia rueppelli. — (1) Jan. 30, 1986 south of El Fasher 4/3, singing male; Lynes (1925): "Common, but local, Palaearctic winter visitor".

Sylvia hortensis. — (1) Lynes (1925): "Rather scarce Palaearctic winter visitor".

Sylvietta brachyura. — (1) During all the time few spec. east of El Fasher; Lynes (1925): "Common resident".

Eremomela icteropygialis. — (1) During all the time around El Fasher few spec.;

Camaroptera brevicaudata. — (1) Dec. 13, 1986 Hafir Jugojujo 1; Lynes (1925): "Common resident in bushland and wood".

Muscicapidae

Muscicapa striata. — (1) From Oct. to Nov. 1984 El Fasher; Nov. 1, 1985 El Fasher 1; Lynes (1925): "Common Palaearctic migrant".

Nectarinidae

Anthreptes platyura. — (1) Nov. 19, 1985 Hafir Golo 1/1; Lynes (1924): "A rather sparingly resident".

Emberizidae

Emberiza striolata. — (3) Winter 1985/86 hills east of El Fasher 4/4; Lynes (1924): "Common in the north-east of Darfur only".

Fringillidae

Serinus leucopygius. — (5) Common in the millet fields around El Fasher and Mellit; Lynes: "Common resident of the plains".

Ploceidae

Passer eminibey. — (1) Lynes (1924): "Resident at El Fasher and not elsewhere".

Passer luteus. — (1) Lynes (1924): "Common in winter locally".

Passer motitensis. — (2) During all the time around El Fasher few spec.; Lynes (1924): "Common resident of the plains".

Passer griseus. — (5) During all the time common; Lynes (1924): "Very common resident".

Ploceus vitelinus. — (1) Nov. 11, 1985 Golo 1; Dec. 1, 1985 El Fasher-Shoba 1; Lynes (1924): "Very common resident".

Estrildidae

Lonchura malabarica. — (5) During observation time El Fasher and Mellit common; from Dec. to midth of Febr. breeding; Lynes (1924): "Very common resident".

Lagonosticta senegala. — (5) Abundant in towns and villages; Lynes (1924): Common village resident.

Pytilia melba. — (1) Lynes (1924): "Common resident of the bush and woodlands".

Sporopipes frontalis. — (1) During all the time El Fasher few spec.; Lynes (1924): "Very common resident".

Amadina fasciata. — (2) Millet fields and the edges around El Fasher and Mellit some spec.; Lynes (1924): "Very common resident".

Quelea quelea. — (2) Jan. 21, 1986 Hafir Golo 1.

Vidua chalybeata. — (5) During all the time common in towns and villages.

Discussion

The literature on the birds of Sudan, particularly on Darfur, is very scanty so that the list may be a new base of increasing observations in this area (Lynes 1924, 1925; Bowen 1926, 1931; Madden 1934, 1935, 1946; Cave & MacDonald 1955).

As compared with the observations of Lynes (1924, 1925), a change of the avifaunal situation in North Darfur is obvious. 97 species are observed both in this study and by Lynes (1924, 1925), 40 species only in this study, and 38 species only by Lynes. There is a remarkable decrease of species of the savanna and bush, and an increase of those of wet places (Table 3). This is due to two main factors: One is the enormous hunting pressure, particularly around the towns and villages. In North Darfur there are 4000 licensed hunters and an estimatedly equal number of illegal ones. All animals bigger than a rabbit or a dove are shot, mainly bustards, pigeons, doves, francolins, quails, and ducks. The other reason for the decrease is the progradient enlargement of the desert to the south. The thorn-scrub savanna and the woodlands are mostly destroyed so that most of the bush- and tree-adapted birds lost their habitat. Up to the moment, a further decrease of the avifauna can be observed with such birds.

		Number of species observed		Change
		this study	Lynes	
(1)	Bush, thornscrub, woodland	22	32	31 % decrease
(2)	Savanna, grassplains	31	39	21 % decrease
(3)	Desert, arid places	6	8	
(4)	Lakes, hafirs wet places	52	31	68 % increase
(5)	Towns, villages	17	15	

Because of the long lasting draught many of the lakes, hafirs and wet places became dry. Only few of the bigger lakes and hafirs had still enough water for the water adapted birds. Therefore such birds are concentrated at these remaining areas and the amount of species increased.

Nowadays, the reason for the desertification is understood. The base is the draught and an additional misuse of the agricultural areas, overgrazing, and an immense use of timber enlarged the Sahara desert so enormously. But unfortunately, there is only little hope to stop the man-made destroying of nature and to reculture this destroyed savanna (Ibrahim 1984; Holländer 1987).

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Zusammenfassung

Winterbeobachtungen von Vögeln in Norddarfur, Provinz Darfur, Sudan, Afrika, während der Zeit von Oktober bis Februar 1984/85 und 1985/86 werden aufgelistet und kommentiert. Die Veränderung des Artenspektrums in dieser Region wird anhand von Vergleichen mit Literaturangaben diskutiert.

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